

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 19, 2001 LB 180

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Mr. President, and thank Senator Hilgert for introducing the bill and then being...working with us to clean up this clean-up bill. The committee amendments would replace the bill. Though the bill was presented as a Labor clean-up measure, it turned out that there was more substantive labor law issues than the bill...in the bill that we would term as a clean-up bill, so we chose to address them. This bill...the amendment would propose that no child under the age of 14 be allowed to have detasseling employment. Children 14 to 16 years old...of age may work in detasseling if the employment is outside of school hours and during the summer months when they've...when they have written parental consent, and they are domiciled within 75 miles of the work location. If these requirements are met, then the child labor law statutes do not apply to employment of the child in detasseling. For purposes of the child labor law statutes, employment in detasseling is removed from what makes an employer subject to child labor laws. And if that...and that is if the employer is liable for unemployment insurance payments, as Senator Hilgert said, for \$20,000 through a quarter. This means that detas...all detasseling employers, regardless of their size, are subject to child labor laws. The committee amendment provides a definition for tasseling...detasseling. The committee amendment would allow the Department of Labor to approve of employment certificates for children residing in adjoining states who want to work in Nebraska; otherwise, employment certificates must be approved by the child's school district. The committee amendment would change the penalty for violation of the child labor laws from a...to a Class II misdemeanor instead of a Class V, as has been currently in the law. The current...the committee amendment would also clean up a couple of the Department of Labor provisions such as adding a reference to standards set in the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration in workplace safety statutes. The Department of Labor is currently...currently has the authority to inspect businesses for compliance with OSHA standards only. But some businesses use the standards provided by MSHA. Other clean-up provision is allowed...is that to allow the Department of Labor to serve notices and citations under the Contractor Registration Act by a manner of delivery by the U.S. Postal Service, that can